

Terry Olifiers
16 Linda Drive
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

8720 01 JUN 19 P2:07

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061, HFA-305
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket # 01P-0169

Dear Doctors,

I am a 54-year-old woman who has suffered from IBS since I was in my early twenties. Over the years my symptoms have become worse. The horrible painful attacks, feeling as if your insides are coming out over and over again are bad enough but the urgency is unbearable. I don't think anyone who has not suffered from a debilitating disease like this can possibly imagine what everyday life is like. If it were you having diarrhea in front of fellow workers, you would be begging for Lotronex. I keep a change of clothes at work and have spent much time in the bathroom crying and trying to figure out how to get to the clothes for there is no place to keep them in the bathroom. I can go on and on with stories you wouldn't believe but I think I'll spare you.

In April of 2000, my Internist gave me a prescription for Lotronex. I had no faith in this working any better than any of the many other medications I had already tried but was willing to try anything. At first I was constipated. I, (using COMMON SENSE), stopped taking the Lotronex and called my doctor. He told me to use a laxative and after I felt better to try the Lotronex again, but to lower the dose to one pill a day. I also, (using COMMON SENSE), started to take Metamucil twice a day. Well that was my magic formula. My life was changed. I no longer suffered from those excruciatingly painful attacks and have not had the urgency at all. I was no longer afraid to leave my home.

When Lotronex was withdrawn in November, I cried my eyes out. I could not go back to living the way I was. It would be as cruel as freeing the slaves and only a few months later putting them back into bondage only to be tortured all over again. I know that this is hyperbole, but that is what life is for IBS-D sufferers. We are afraid to leave our homes and the torture we suffer is unbearable.

01P-0169

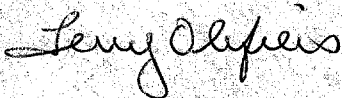
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I was lucky enough to hoard as much Lotronex as I could get. I have been breaking pills in half and that is working for me. I would think it is quite obvious that not everyone needs the same dose. I would think doctors could start with a low dose and up the amount when necessary. I would also think that doctors could start patients off with limited prescriptions so they have to call with their progress. This could hopefully control the patients that are too stupid to call their doctor when having adverse side effects.

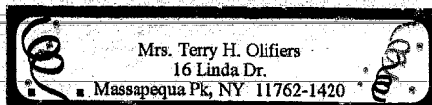
I don't want to suggest that I have all of the answers but I'm sure there are ways to help the hundreds of thousands of women and men who are suffering needlessly. It is cruel beyond belief that there is this wonderful miracle drug and it is being withheld from us.

Thank you for listening.

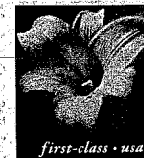
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Olifiers". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Terry Olifiers



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